IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-33 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated L-amino acid producing bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein the bacterium has increased expression of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 4; and

(B) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 except that said sequence has deletions, substitutions, insertions, or additions ~~of~~ which total between 1 ~~to~~ and 5 amino acids, and wherein said protein imparts to the bacterium increased resistance to L-amino acids and/or analogs thereof;

and, in addition, ~~increasing the activity of~~increased expression of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(C) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 6 , and

(D) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 except that said sequence has deletions, substitutions, insertions, or additions ~~of~~ which total between 1 ~~to~~ and 5 amino acids, and wherein said protein imparts to the bacterium enhanced resistance to L-amino acids and/or analogs thereof,

wherein the expression of said proteins is increased by transforming said bacterium with the gene coding for said protein, or by placing said gene under the control of a potent promoter.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously presented) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the transformation is performed with a multicopy vector.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for producing L-amino acid, which comprises cultivating the bacterium according to any of claims 1 to 3 in a culture medium and collecting from the culture medium L-amino acid to be produced and accumulated.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-threonine.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claims 5, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of threonine operon.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-valine.

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claims 7, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of ilv operon.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-proline.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claims 9, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of genes for proline biosynthesis.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-leucine.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claims 11, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of leu operon.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-methionine.

14. (Withdawn) The method according to claims 13, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of genes met regulon.

15. (Withdrawn) An L-amino acid producing bacterium belonging to the genus Escherichia, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the L-amino acid production by said bacterium should be enhanced by enhancing activities of proteins as defined in the following (E) or (F) in a cell of said bacterium: (E) a protein which comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11 in Sequence listing; (F) a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one or several amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11 in Sequence listing, and which has an activity of making bacterium having enhanced resistance to L-amino acids and/or its analogs;

16. (Withdrawn) The bacterium according to the claim 15, wherein said activities of proteins as defined as (E) or (F) are enhanced by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for protein as defined in (E) or (F), or by alteration of expression regulation sequence of said DNA on the chromosome of the bacterium.

17. (Withdrawn) The bacterium according to the claim 16, wherein the transformation is performed with a multicopy vector.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for producing L-amino acid, which comprises cultivating the bacterium according to any of claims 15 to 17 in a culture medium and collecting from the culture medium L-amino acid to be produced and accumulated.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein L-amino acid is L-

threonine.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of threonine operon.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein L-amino acid is L-valine.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of ilv operon.

23. (Withdrawn) An L-amino acid producing bacterium belonging to the genus Escherichia, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the L-amino acid production by said bacterium should be enhanced by enhancing activities of proteins as defined in the following (G) or (H) in a cell of said bacterium: (G) a protein which comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 in Sequence listing; (H) a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one or several amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 in Sequence listing, and which has an activity of making bacterium having enhanced resistance to L-amino acids and/or its analogs, such as DL-o-methylserine, 6-diazo-5-oxo-L-norleucine and DL-.beta.-hydroxy-norvaline, and having enhanced sensitivity to S-(2-aminoethyl)cysteine

24. (Withdrawn) The bacterium according to the claim 23, wherein said activities of proteins as defined as (G) or (H) are enhanced by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for protein as defined in (G) or (H), or by alteration of expression regulation sequence of said DNA on the chromosome of the bacterium.

25. (Withdrawn) The bacterium according to the claim 24, wherein the transformation is performed with a multicopy vector.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for producing L-amino acid, which comprises cultivating the bacterium according to any of claims 23 to 25 in a culture medium and collecting from the culture medium L-amino acid to be produced and accumulated.

27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, wherein L-amino acid is L-arginine.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claims 27, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of arginine regulon.

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, wherein L-amino acid is L-proline.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claims 29, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of genes for proline biosynthesis.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the proteins (A) and (C) are encoded by the following polynucleotides, respectively:

(a) the polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,

(c) the polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

33. (Previously presented) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the proteins (B) and (D) are encoded by the following polynucleotide, respectively:

(b) the polynucleotide which hybridizes with the sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 under conditions comprising washing in 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60°C, and

(d) the polynucleotide which hybridizes with the sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 under conditions comprising washing in 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60°C.